The London Gazette
EXTRAORDINARY.

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Whitehall, June 10, 1776.

THIS Morning Major Caldwell, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Britiſh Militia in Canada, arrived from Quebec, in His Majeſty's Sloop Hunter; by whom was received the following Letter from General Carleton to Lord George Germain, together with the Copy of a Letter from General Carleton to General Howe.

Quebec, May 14, 1776.

My Lord,

AFTER this Town had been cloſely inveſted by the Rebels for Five Months, and had defeated all their Attempts, the Surprize Frigate, Iſis, and Sloop Martin came into the Baſon the 6th Inſtant.

As ſoon as that Part of the 29th they had on Board with their Marines, in all about Two Hundred, were landed, they, with the greateſt Part of the Garriſon, by this Time much improved, and in high Spirits, marched out of the Ports of St. Louis and St. John's, to ſee what thoſe mighty Boaſters were about; they were found very buſy in their Preparations for a Retreat; a few Shots being exchanged, the Line marched forward, and the Plains were ſoon cleared of thoſe Plunderers; all their Artillery, Military Stores, Scaling Ladders, Petards, &c. &c were abandoned: The Surprize, Martin, and a Province Armed Veſſel, went up the River, when they alſo quitted the Gaſpé, and the Armed Schooner Mary: The Rear of the Rebels have halted at Dechambault, and the Surprize, with the other Two Veſſels, are a little upon this Side of the Falls of Richelieu.

This ended our Siege and Blockade; during which the mixed Garriſon of Soldiers, Sailors, Britiſh and Canadian Militia, with the Artificers from Halifax and Newfoundland, ſhewed great Zeal and Patience, under very ſevere Duty and uncommon Vigilance, indiſpenſable in a Place liable to be ſtormed, beſides great Labour neceſſary to render ſuch Attempts leſs practicable.

Nothwithſtanding the inclement Seaſon they preſerved good Health, and their Spirits encreaſed every Day. A Copy of my Letter to General Howe will inform your Lordſhip of our Situation to the Defeat of the Rebels upon the 31ſt of December.

For three Months after they confined their Operations to the preventing all Supplies from coming to Town, and in burning our Suburbs and Shipping; the latter have almoſt all eſcaped, but the greateſt Part of the Suburbs of St. Roque and St. John have been burnt; the Remainder was brought into Town for Fuel, which was much wanted.

The Beginning of February the Rebels again attempted to enter into a Correſpondence by a Flag of Truce, encouraged to it, I ſuppoſe, by a Permiſſion granted for the Priſoners Baggage to enter the Town; but as they were told immediately to withdraw, unleſs they came to implore the King's Mercy, they have not ſince returned.

March the 25th, the Advance Guard of a Party, raiſed by Mr. Beaujeu to relieve the Town, was defeated; the Reſt diſperſed. The 31ſt it was diſcovered that the Rebel Priſoners had formed a Plot to eſcape, to ſeize the Guard of St. John's Gate, and let in Mr. Arnold; which was effectually diſappointed.

The 4th of April the Rebels opened a Battery of Four Guns and One Howitzer from the oppoſite Side of the River St. Laurence; and the 22d another of Two Guns and One Howitzer from the oppoſite Side of the River St. Charles: Theſe were alſo intended to burn the Town and Shipping. From both they fired red hot Balls. The 23d they attempted throwing ſome Shells into Town from a Battery on the Heights oppoſite to Port St. Louis: All theſe Batteries were much damaged by our Artillery.

May the 3d, about Ten at Night, a Fireſhip attempted to run into the Cul-de-Sac, where the greateſt Part of our Shipping were laid up; but this alſo proved abortive, and ſhe burned to the Water's Edge, without doing us the leaſt Injury: It is ſuppoſed they intended a general Aſſault, had they ſucceeded in ſetting Fire to the Ships and Lower Town.

I cannot conclude this Letter without doing Juſtice to Lieutenant-Colonel Maclean, who has been indefatigably zealous in the King's Service, and to his Regiment, wherein he has collected a Number of experienced good Officers, who have been very uſeful. * Colonel Hamilton, who commanded the Battalion of Seamen, his Officers, and Men, diſcharged their Duty with great Alacrity and Spirit. The ſame thing muſt be acknowledged of the Maſters, Inferior Officers, and Seamen belonging to His Majeſty's Tranſports, and Merchant-men detained here laſt Fall: Only One Seamen deſerted the whole Time. The Militia, Britiſh and Canadian, behaved with a Steadineſs and Reſolution that could hardly have been expected from Men unuſed to Arms. Judges, and other Officers of Government, as well as Merchants, chearfully ſubmitted to every Inconvenience, to preſerve the Town; the Whole indeed upon the Occaſion ſhewed a Spirit and Perſeverance that do them great Honour.

The 47th from Halifax, and the greateſt Part of the 29th, are ſince arrived.

Major

* Captain of His Majeſty's Ship Lizard.

[Price Twopence Halfpenny.]